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# Nixon's Return

## Kissinger and Friend At the Soviet Embassy

By Jean M. White  
and Marian Burros

Former president Richard Nixon returned to the Washington diplomatic circuit last night and turned the Soviet Embassy's annual celebration of the Russian Revolution into his personal party.

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As guests thronged around the former president, Valentin M. Kamenev, the Russian Embassy press counselor, joked with a reporter about the guest taking over the party.

"What will your story be about? It probably will be all about Mr. Nixon. You should write about the mood here in the embassy as we celebrate this great anniversary."

And what was the mood of the Russians, he was asked, with the apparent death of Salt II negotiations and a president-elect who speaks of a strengthened American posture in foreign affairs and defense?

"As you, we must wait to see," he replied. "We believe it is in the United States' interest for us to be friends."

Kamenev broke off the conversation when asked about Vladimir V. Popov, a former third secretary at the Soviet Embassy. Popov figured in news reports as "Igor," the Russian contact for David Barnett, the former CIA agent who pleaded guilty last week to selling secrets to the Soviets.

"What is the name?" Kamenev asked. "There is no one here with that name." When pressed about the list-

ing of a Vladimir V. Popov as one of the embassy's third secretaries in the State Department's diplomatic list of May, 1980, Kamenev replied:

"There is no such person."

EXCERPTED